

**DESOTO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**EUGENE C. THACH, PRESIDENT, PRESIDING**

**FEBRUARY 28, 2000**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

The February 28, 2000, meeting of the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors was called to order by Supervisor Eugene C. Thach of DeSoto County.

Chief Deputy Charles Brown of the DeSoto County Sheriff’s Office was present and did open the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors meeting in a regular session to hear any and all business to come before the Board. The following were present:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----District 1  
Supervisor Eugene C. Thach-----District 2  
Supervisor Gerald Clifton-----District 3  
Supervisor John Caldwell-----District 4  
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----District 5  
W. E. “Sluggo” Davis-----Chancery Clerk  
William Austin-----Board Attorney

**B. INVOCATION**

The invocation was presented by Chancery Clerk W. E. “Sluggo” Davis.

**A. OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Appointments**

**a. DeSoto County Library Board**

At the request of Supervisor Jessie Medlin, this item was held over.

**b. Horn Lake Interceptor Sewer**

Supervisor Gerald Clifton made a motion and Supervisor John Caldwell seconded the motion to carry this item over. The **motion passed** by a unanimous vote.

**c. Wastewater Regional Authority**

Supervisor Tommy Lewis made a motion and Supervisor Gerald Clifton seconded the motion to appoint Barry Bridgeforth as the County At-Large representative to the Wastewater Regional Authority. The **motion passed** by a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Eugene Thach made a motion and Supervisor John Caldwell seconded the motion to appoint Bill Scott as the County At-Large representative to the Wastewater Regional Authority. The **motion failed** by a vote as follows:

**ITEM C.1.c, CONTINUED,**

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----NO

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**2/28/00**

Supervisor Eugene Thach-----YES  
Supervisor Gerald Clifton-----NO  
Supervisor John Caldwell-----YES  
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----NO

Supervisor Jessie Medlin said he voted against this appointment because it was his understanding that there was to be an appointment from the east and west side of the County.

Supervisor Gerald Clifton made a motion and Supervisor Jessie Medlin seconded the motion to appoint Robert Ramage as the County At-Large representative to the Wastewater Regional Authority. The **motion passed** by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----YES  
Supervisor Eugene Thach-----NO  
Supervisor Gerald Clifton-----YES  
Supervisor John Caldwell-----NO  
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----YES

**\*\*See Exhibit C.1.c\*\***

## **2. Abandoning Goodman Road from ICRR to Highway 161**

This item was held over until March 6, 2000. **\*\*See Exhibit C.2\*\***

Supervisor Gerald Clifton made a motion and Supervisor John Caldwell seconded the motion to remove Supervisor Gerald Clifton from the committee to inspect abandoning Goodman Road from ICRR to Highway 161 and to appoint Supervisor Eugene Thach to serve on the committee with Supervisor John Caldwell. The **motion passed** by a unanimous vote.

## **3. Declare Highway 304 Acreage as Surplus Property**

Supervisor Gerald Clifton informed the Board of Supervisors that he and Supervisor Tommy Lewis inspected the acres on Highway 304 and he recommended that the acreage be deemed as surplus. Supervisor John Caldwell said that the property is all flood land. Supervisor Caldwell said that the County does not have to sell the property if the bids are too low. Supervisor Gerald Clifton made a motion and Supervisor Tommy Lewis seconded the motion to declare the acreage on Highway 304 as surplus property and authorized to go out for bids to sell the property. The **motion passed** by a unanimous vote. **\*\*See Exhibit C.3\*\***

## **4. Dean Road at Tulane Road**

The Board of Supervisors removed this item from the agenda.

# **B. NEW BUSINESS**

## **1. T. H. Walker - Truck for Search and Rescue**

Civil Defense Director, T. H. Walker, addressed the Board of Supervisors about a truck for Search and Rescue. Mr. Walker said that he met with Central Maintenance about the size of truck needed to carry the river boat for Search and Rescue. Mr. Walker said that a one ton truck was recommended with a full crew cab and four wheel drive. Mr. Walker said the diesel

## **ITEM D.1, CONTINUED,**

package can be added to the price for an additional \$3,500.00.

Supervisor John Caldwell asked if funds were in the Search and Rescue budget for the new truck. Mr. Walker said no, it will need to come out of the general fund.

Captain Nichols of Civil Defense said that the one ton truck will be useful for carrying other boats and serving other purposes for Search and Rescue.

Mr. Walker said the base price for the one ton truck is \$21,799.00 without the diesel package. Mr. Walker said an additional \$2,600.00 will need to be added for the four wheel drive package.

Supervisor Tommy Lewis made a motion and Supervisor Gerald Clifton seconded the motion to authorize Search and Rescue to purchase a one ton truck with four wheel drive package off of State Contract and to approve a budget amendment for Search and Rescue under the provisions of Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated, Section 19-11-19 as follows:

Increase	001-225-930	Purchase of Truck	up to	\$25,000.00
Decrease	001-901-999	General Fund	up to	\$25,000.00

The Board did not elect to get the diesel package on the truck for Search and Rescue. The **motion passed**

**2. Authorization to Obtain Proposals for General Liability Insurance**

Supervisor Tommy Lewis made a motion and Supervisor Gerald Clifton seconded the motion to obtain proposals for general liability insurance for the County. The **motion passed** by a unanimous vote.

**3. Notice of Change in Meeting Place**

In accordance with Section 19-3-11 of the Mississippi Code, Supervisor Gerald Clifton made a motion and Supervisor Jessie Medlin seconded the motion to advertise for three consecutive weeks, the notice of change of meeting place for the Board of Supervisors from the Courthouse to the new Administrative Building effective April 3, 2000. The **motion passed** by a unanimous vote. **\*\*See Exhibit D.3\*\***

**4. Allowances for Circuit Court Clerk and Chancery Court Clerk**

The allowances for the Circuit Court Clerk for the January 2000 Term in the amount of \$2,812.00 for Youth Court, \$455.00 for County Court and \$3,207.00 for County Court and the allowances for the Chancery Court Clerk for the February 2000 Term in the amount of \$2,036.00 were presented to the Board of Supervisors for approval. Supervisor Jessie Medlin made the motion and Supervisor Gerald Clifton seconded the motion to approve the Circuit Court Clerk Allowances pursuant to Sections 43-21-205 and 25-7-13 and the Chancery Clerk Allowances pursuant to Section 25-7-9 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated. The **motion passed** by a unanimous vote. **\*\*See Exhibit D.4\*\***

**5. Budget Amendment**

**a. Justice Court**

In accordance with the provisions set forth in Section 19-11-11 of the Mississippi Code, the **ITEM D.5.a, CONTINUED,**

Board of Supervisors did discuss an amendment to the budget for the Fiscal year beginning October 1, 1999, and ending September 30, 2000. At the recommendation of Comptroller Joyce Riales, Supervisor John Caldwell made the motion and Supervisor Jessie Medlin seconded the motion to approve the budget amendment for Justice Court under the provisions of Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated, Section 19-11-19 as follows:

Decrease	001-166-404	Office Clerical	\$2,000.00
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Increase	001-166-936	Computer Equipment	\$ 500.00
Increase	001-166-610	Professional Supplies	\$1,500.00

The **motion passed** by a unanimous vote. **\*\*See Exhibit D.5.a\*\***

**b. Youth Services**

In accordance with the provisions set forth in Section 19-11-11 of the Mississippi Code, the Board of Supervisors did discuss an amendment to the budget for the Fiscal year beginning October 1, 1999, and ending September 30, 2000. At the recommendation of Comptroller Joyce Riales, Supervisor John Caldwell made the motion and Supervisor Jessie Medlin seconded the motion to approve the budget amendment for Youth Services under the provisions of Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated, Section 19-11-19 as follows:

Decrease	001-164-467	Worker’s Comp	\$ 400.00
Increase	001-164-933	Office Equipment	\$ 400.00
Decrease	001-164-581	Other Contract	\$ 600.00
Increase	001-164-603	Office Supplies	\$ 600.00

The **motion passed** by a unanimous vote. **\*\*See Exhibit D.5.b\*\***

**c. E-911**

Comptroller Joyce Riales informed the Board of Supervisors that Jessie Kennedy of E-911 requested this budget amendment to pay the engineering fees for Mark Brandt and to advertise the radio towers. In accordance with the provisions set forth in Section 19-11-11 of the Mississippi Code, the Board of Supervisors did discuss an amendment to the budget for the Fiscal year beginning October 1, 1999, and ending September 30, 2000. Supervisor John Caldwell made the motion and Supervisor Tommy Lewis seconded the motion to approve the budget amendment for E-911 under the provisions of Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated, Section 19-11-19 as follows:

Decrease	381-243-912	New Construction	\$65,117.00
Increase	381-243-555	Engineering Fees	\$65,000.00
Increase	381-243-521	Advertising	\$ 117.00

The **motion passed** by a unanimous vote. **\*\*See Exhibit D.5.c\*\***

**d. Civic Center**

Comptroller Joyce Riales informed the Board of Supervisors that the Civic Center requested this budget amendment to cover the salary and benefits for the rest of this year for the Operations Manager. Ms. Riales said that the funds will be transferred to the General Fund from the Civic Center Debt Service. Ms. Riales said there will be over \$900,000.00 in the fund after the Civic Center makes its next payment in May.

**ITEM D.5.d, CONTINUED,**

In accordance with the provisions set forth in Section 19-11-11 of the Mississippi Code, the Board of Supervisors did discuss an amendment to the budget for the Fiscal year beginning October 1, 1999, and ending September 30, 2000. Supervisor Tommy Lewis made the motion and Supervisor John Caldwell seconded the motion to approve the budget amendment for the Civic Center under the provisions of Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated, Section 19-11-19 as follows:

Transfer from	291	Civic Center Debt Service	\$40,340.00
Transfer to	001-000-384	General County	\$40,340.00
Increase	001-526-405	Operations Manager	\$31,250.00

Increase	001-526-465	Retirement Match	\$ 3,047.00
Increase	001-526-466	Social Security	\$ 2,391.00
Increase	001-526-467	Workers Comp Insurance	\$ 1,591.00
Increase	001-526-468	Group Insurance	\$ 2,061.00

The **motion passed** by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----NO  
Supervisor Eugene Thach-----YES  
Supervisor Gerald Clifton-----YES  
Supervisor John Caldwell-----YES  
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----YES

**\*\*See Exhibit D.5.d\*\***

Supervisor Jessie Medlin said he voted against the budget amendment because he thinks the Civic Center should receive the funds as needed and not in a lump sum.

**e. Board of Supervisors**

Comptroller Joyce Riales informed the Board of Supervisors that County Administrator David Armstrong recommended this budget amendment for a copier for the Board Secretary. Chancery Clerk Sluggo Davis asked the Board to hold this item. Supervisor Jessie Medlin made a motion and Supervisor John Caldwell seconded the motion to hold this item until March 6, 2000. The **motion passed** by a unanimous vote. **\*\*See Exhibit D.5.e\*\***

**6. Request for Assistance**

- a. Olive Branch Middle School**
- b. Walls Elementary**

At the request of Jerry Baird, Superintendent of the DeSoto County Board of Education, Supervisor Jessie Medlin made a motion and Supervisor John Caldwell seconded the motion to authorize the Road Manager to supply the labor and equipment to add a parking lot at Olive Branch Middle School and to patch the potholes with hot mix in the parking lot and playground areas of Walls Elementary. The **motion passed** by a unanimous vote. **\*\*See Exhibit D.6\*\***

**7. Demery Grubbs - Proposed Bond Issue**

No action was needed from the Board of Supervisors on this issue.

**ITEM D.8, CONTINUED,**

**8. Assistance to Victims of Crime**

As authorized by Section 99-37-25 of the Mississippi Code and as recommended by Sherry Franks, Victim's Assistance Coordinator in the District Attorney's Office, Supervisor Tommy Lewis made the motion and Supervisor John Caldwell seconded them motion to approve the reimbursement of medical expenses incurred by a victim as a result of a sexual assault which incurred in DeSoto County in March, 1999 with the reimbursement being paid directly to the medical providers for a total of \$597.06. The **motion passed** by a unanimous vote. **\*\*See Exhibit D.8.\*\***

**9. Approval of Contract with Ikon**

- a. Civil Defense
- b. Board Secretary

Vanessa Lynchard informed the Board of Supervisors that the copier, which was donated to Civil Defense, is no longer working and they need a new copier as soon as possible. Supervisor John Caldwell made a motion and Supervisor Gerald Clifton seconded the motion to approve the contract for a copier for Civil Defense with Ikon for 27 months at a monthly payment of \$208.00 and to hold the approval of the contract with Ikon for the Board Secretary. The **motion passed** by a unanimous vote. **\*\*See Exhibit D.9. a. and D.9.b\*\***

## 10. Bills for Cleaning Property

The DeSoto County Board of Supervisors did determine that the property located at 11176 Sequoyah Drive, Hernando, MS and 5820 Briarwood, Walls, MS was a menace to the public health and safety of the community. After having properly advertised the property located at 11176 Sequoyah Drive, Hernando, MS and 5820 Briarwood, Walls, MS for public hearing, and after the public hearing was held, the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors did order the Director of Planning to clean the property and attach a lien to the property for the cost of the cleaning.

The Board of Supervisors requests the Circuit Clerk of DeSoto County enroll this lien against the property as provided in Section 19-5-105 of the Mississippi Code and enroll in the judgement roll of the Circuit Clerk as other liens are enrolled, and requests the clerk to treat this lien as any other lien. Furthermore, the Board of Supervisors directs that a certified copy of this order be given to the Tax Collector of DeSoto County and have the Tax Collector to proceed to sell the land to satisfy said lien as now provided by law for the sale of lands for delinquent taxes. Furthermore, the property owner whose land has been sold pursuant to this section shall have the same right of redemption as now provided by law for the sale of lands for delinquent taxes.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin made the motion and Supervisor John Caldwell seconded the motion to request the Circuit Clerk place 11176 Sequoyah Drive, Hernando, MS and 5820 Briarwood, Walls, MS on the judgement roll, and send a certified copy of these minutes to the Tax Collector for inclusion in the delinquent tax sale. The **motion passed** by a unanimous vote. **\*\*See Exhibit D.10\*\***

## 11. Approval of Erroneous Assessment

Chancery Clerk Sluggo Davis informed the Board that an assessment from 1997 that was originally assessed with an improvement has been reduced due to no house being on the property at that time. At the recommendation of Tax Assessor Parker Pickle, Supervisor Tommy Lewis made a motion and Supervisor Gerald Clifton seconded the motion to remove

### ITEM D.11, CONTINUED,

the improvement value on 1997 taxes, parcel 2078-2800.0-00007.00 and to reduce the assessed value from \$4,035.00 to \$2,190.00 for the 1997 year. The **motion passed** by a unanimous vote. **\*\*See Exhibit D.11\*\***

## 12. Bids Under Advisement - Pest Control

Vanessa Lynchard informed the Board of Supervisors that the pest control bids include all buildings and that the low bidder is. Vanessa said that the pest control bids do not include services for termite control. At the recommendation of Jim Bearden and Vanessa Lynchard, Supervisor Jessie Medlin made a motion and Supervisor Gerald Clifton seconded the motion to accept Stroupe Pest Control as the low bidder for pest control services. The **motion passed** by a unanimous vote. **\*\*See Exhibit D.12\*\***

**13. Resolution of Gratitude - Layton Alan Scott, Horn Lake Creek**

Supervisor Tommy Lewis made a motion and Supervisor Gerald Clifton seconded the motion to approve the resolution for Layton Alan Scott for his service on the Horn Lake Creek Drainage District Board of Commissioners and for his dedication to the County. The **motion passed** by a unanimous vote. **\*\*See Exhibit D.13\*\***

**14. Approval of Delivery Costs for Vehicles**

Vanessa Lynchard informed the Board of Supervisors that the Purchasing Director requested approval to pay delivery costs for the vehicles ordered by Road Manager Kenny Gunn. Vanessa said that the delivery cost is .75 a mile. Vanessa said the two vehicles ordered for the Supervisors are in and that the County has two more vehicles that are on order. Supervisor Tommy Lewis made a motion and Supervisor Gerald Clifton seconded the motion to approve the delivery costs at .75 a mile for the two other vehicles on order if the Department Head determines the option to be cost effective. The **motion passed** by a unanimous vote.

**15. Advertise County Resources - Laura Wilson**

Supervisor Jessie Medlin informed the Board of Supervisors that student Laurie Wilson of Olive Branch was selected as a member of the People to People Student Ambassadors and presented a request from Ms. Wilson for assistance for the upcoming trip to Australia. Supervisor Medlin said she has to raise \$5,000.00 for the trip. Board Attorney Bill Austin said that it is okay to donate money to her for the trip and suggested that she carry buttons and literature promoting DeSoto County when she goes to Australia.

Supervisor John Caldwell asked if Ms. Wilson is the only student in DeSoto County that will need assistance for the trip. Supervisor Medlin said he did not know if she is the only delegate from DeSoto County or not.

In accordance with Section 17-3-1, of the Mississippi Code of 1972, which states the board of supervisors of any county in Mississippi may in their discretion, set aside, appropriate and expend moneys, not to exceed one mill of their respective valuation and assessment for the purpose of advertising and bringing into favorable notice the opportunities, possibilities and resources of such municipality or county, Supervisor Jessie Medlin made a motion and Supervisor Gerald Clifton seconded the motion to approve donating \$300.00 instead of \$250.00 since the travel will be out of the country, to the People to People Student Ambassadors for the trip to Australia. The **motion passed** by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----YES

**ITEM D.15, CONTINUED,**

Supervisor Eugene Thach-----NO

Supervisor Gerald Clifton-----YES

Supervisor John Caldwell-----YES

Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----YES

**\*\*See Exhibit D.15\*\***

**E. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The “Executive Session” portion of this meeting is presented under the portion of minutes called “Executive Session.

**F. OTHER ISSUES**

1. Civil Defense

Supervisor Jessie Medlin made a motion and Supervisor Gerald Clifton seconded the motion to accept a check from the State of Mississippi for Civil Defense in the amount of \$6,250.00. The **motion passed** by a unanimous vote.

2. Civic Center

Stuart Taylor, Director of the Civic Center, introduced Bill Forester, the new Operations Manager for the Civic Center, to the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Forester said he is pleased to be working at the Civic Center and is available if the Board has any questions. Mr. Forester said one of the main things he is currently doing is setting up training for new employees.

Supervisor John Caldwell asked Mr. Taylor when contracting will be done for seating. Mr. Taylor said the prebid is scheduled for tomorrow and that the contracts open on March 7, 2000 for the seating.

Mr. Taylor said that he is going to recommend that the naming rights for the Civic Center be done by an outside consultant firm and that nothing has been done on hotel rights to date.

Supervisor Gerald Clifton asked what the move in date is. Mr. Taylor said they will move in September 20, 2000 and that the River Kings are scheduled to begin training on October 1, 2000.

3. District Attorney’s Office Roof

Supervisor John Caldwell made a motion and Supervisor Tommy Lewis seconded the motion to authorize Jim Bearden, Director of Operations and Maintenance, to go out for bids for a new roof for the District Attorney’s Office if needed. The **motion passed** by a vote as follows:

- Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----YES
- Supervisor Eugene Thach-----YES
- Supervisor Gerald Clifton-----ABSENT
- Supervisor John Caldwell-----YES
- Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----YES

4. Terms for Wastewater Regional Authority Appointments

Supervisor John Caldwell made a motion and Supervisor Tommy Lewis seconded the motion to

ITEM F.4, CONTINUED,

appoint Barry Bridgeforth for a four year term and to appoint Robert Ramage for a two year term on the Wastewater Regional Authority and to issue a bond each of the appointments for \$10,000.00. The **motion passed** by a vote as follows:

- Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----YES
- Supervisor Eugene Thach-----YES
- Supervisor Gerald Clifton-----ABSENT
- Supervisor John Caldwell-----YES
- Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----YES

5. T. H. Walker - Storm Shelters

Civil Defense Director T. H. Walker informed the Board of Supervisors that Saturday night, one of the local television channels aired a story on storm shelters and said that individuals can be reimbursed for building storm shelters on their property. Mr. Walker said his office has



received numerous calls regarding this and that he believed the Supervisors would also be receiving calls. Mr. Walker said he checked with the State and there is not a provision that he is aware of at this time to reimburse individuals for building storm shelters on their property.

**6. Homestead Exemptions**

Supervisor Jessie Medlin made the motion and Supervisor Gerald Clifton seconded the motion to approve the petition to adjust the homestead exemption supplemental roll as presented by the Chancery Clerk. The **motion passed** by a unanimous vote. **\*\*See Exhibit F.6\*\***

**7. Authorization for Board President to Sign Agreement for Federal Funds for Apartment Complex**

Board Attorney Bill Austin informed the Board of Supervisors that authorization is needed for the Board President to sign the loan agreement to issue bonds for \$12 million for the Laurel Park Apartments in Walls. Mr. Austin said they will be federally funded but not subsidized and that occupants of the apartments cannot earn over a certain income to live in this complex.

Supervisor John Caldwell said he did not think this type of apartments are being built for current Walls residents but for people moving into DeSoto County. Supervisor Caldwell asked if the Board has to approve the agreement. Mr. Austin said the financing is dependent on the Board’s approval.

Supervisor Gerald Clifton asked when the agreement needed to be signed. Mr. Austin said it needs to be signed today. Supervisor Clifton said he had reservations about the apartments but wants to see the west side of the County develop.

Supervisor Tommy Lewis said that some people cannot afford to live anywhere else and that they should not be penalized because they do not make a lot of money.

Supervisor Tommy Lewis made a motion and Supervisor Gerald Clifton seconded the motion to hold this item over until March 6, 2000. The **motion passed** by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----YES  
Supervisor Eugene Thach-----YES  
Supervisor Gerald Clifton-----YES  
Supervisor John Caldwell-----NO  
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----YES

Supervisor John Caldwell made the motion and Supervisor Gerald Clifton seconded the motion to adjourn until March 6, 2000 at 9:00 a.m. The **motion passed** by a unanimous vote.

THIS the 28<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2000, these minutes have been read and approved by the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors.

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Eugene C. Thach, President  
DeSoto County Board of Supervisors